

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:GRK:GT(HURCHILL:MP:VH

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA:RPDAVIES

S/S - MR. MILLER

NEA:JJSISCO

WH - HAKISSINGER

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R 110015Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

S E C R E T STATE 135038

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR - GR, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED DEMARCHE

REF: A) ATHENS 3862; B) ATHENS 3727; C) ATHENS 3811

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

1. I HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING GREEK DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY AND BELIEVE YOUR ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION AND YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS MAKE A LOT OF SENSE. ON CONSIDERING THE ALTERNATIVES, I CONCLUDE THAT AN ORAL DEMARCHE BY YOU TO PAPADOPOULOS WOULD BE THE MOST TIMELY AND EFFECTIVE WAY TO PUT OUR MESSAGE ACROSS. YOU SHOULD SEEK A MEETING WITH PAPADOPOULOS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY AND CONVEY TO HIM THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

2. IN THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER PAPADOPOULOS IN JUNE 1970, HE NOTED THAT A RETURN TO PARLIAMENTARY

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DEMOCRACY WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY STRENGTHEN THE ALLIANCE. IN

THIS PERIOD OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EASTERN COUNTRIES, IT IS PERHAPS EVEN MORE VITAL THAT THE STRENGTH AND COHESION OF NATO NOT BE IMPAIRED. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT GREECE'S INTERESTS ARE BEST SERVED BY MAINTAINING A SOLID BASIS FOR COOPERATION WITH WESTERN EUROPE, NATO,EEC AND THE UNITED STATES, IN ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND MILITARY MATTERS.

3. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY HELD THAT THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN GREECE IS A MATTER FOR THE PEOPLE OF GREECE TO DECIDE. WE THEREFORE WELCOME, AS DO ALL THE FRIENDS AND ALLIES OF GREECE, PAPADOPOULOS'S PLEDGE THAT THE GREEK PEOPLE WILL BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FREE EXPRESSION ON THEIR OPINION ON THEIR FUTURE, THROUGH THE SCHEDULED PLEBISCITE AND GENERAL ELECTIONS. IN THE SPIRIT OF RESPECT AND AFFECTION THAT HAS LONG CHARACTERIZED RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES, WE CANNOT FAIL TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE THAT MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE EXERCISE OF GENUINE FREEDOM OF CHOICE ON THE PART OF THE GREEK ELECTORATE. IN THE BROADEST SENSE, THE CONDUCT OF THE PLEBISCITE AND THE ELECTIONS TO FOLLOW WILL INEVITABLY HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE ALLIANCE AND ON THE TRADITIONAL CORDIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. ROGER

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